

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : To Be Assigned
First Named Inventor : Stefan SCHWARZ
Filed : Herewith

Docket No. : 095309.55734US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FASTENING COMPONENTS
TO INITIALLY CLOSED HOLLOW PROFILES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE

The relevance of DE 196 18 626 A1 to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the specification of the present invention.

An English abstract summarizing the disclosures of each of the foreign language publications is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing

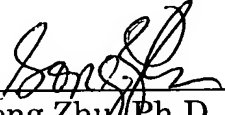
Information Disclosure Statement dated January 4, 2005

date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

January 4, 2005



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h3 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h3> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>		<h4 style="text-align: center;">Complete if Known</h4> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td style="width: 50%;">To Be Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>January 4, 2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Stefan SCHWARZ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>095309.55734US</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	To Be Assigned	Filing Date	January 4, 2005	First Named Inventor	Stefan SCHWARZ	Art Unit		Examiner Name		Attorney Docket Number	095309.55734US
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Attorney Docket Number	095309.55734US														
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,839,777	11-24-1998	VLAHOVIC	
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		DE 100 48 005 A1	04-11-2002	AUDI AG		
		DE 196 18 626 A1	11-13-1997	Daimler-Benz AG		
		DE 197 20 867 C1	09-03-1998	Brose Fahrzeugteile GmbH & Co. KG		
		DE 197 50 067 A1	05-20-1999	Behr GmbH & Co.		
		EP 0 593 950 B1	02-12-1997	FIAT AUTO S.p.A.		
		EP 0 749 892 B1	12-27-1996	Dr. Ing.h.c. F. Porsche AG		
		EP 0 823 296 A2	02-11-1998	Balcke-Duerr GmbH		
		EP 1 000 677 B1	05-17-2000	Volkswagen AG		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		International Search Report	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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